

Almost daily we are reminded of the violence that plagues our children and the Nation. The statistics are startling. Among the 26 richest nations, the United States accounted for 73 percent of the homicides in which a child was the victim. Three children a day die as a result of child abuse or neglect. Too many children are lost to violence. So many of these deaths are preventable.

□ 1500

I want this day to remind us that we must do a better job of keeping our children safe. Children are the most vulnerable members of our society. We as a nation have an obligation to guide and protect them. We all must work together to end the violence against our children.

Tomorrow, all 50 State governments and the District of Columbia will participate in National Children's Memorial Flag Day. Many States are flying or displaying the children's memorial flag on or near their State capital. Other States are participating by issuing proclamations.

In Nevada, because of the diligence of Donna Husted of the Children's Advocacy Alliance, the children's memorial flag is being flown over the Nevada State capital, the Nevada Department of Child Protective Services, City Hall in Las Vegas, the Clark County government building, and the Clark County Child Protective Services building. I commend Donna Husted for her efforts and thank her on behalf of all the loved ones of the children we have lost.

This day is a community effort, a community effort that involves everyone. It crosses racial and ethnic lines. It crosses religious lines. It crosses party lines. I encourage all of my colleagues to support the goals of National Children's Memorial Flag Day. It is a day to remember, to remember the innocent lives we have lost.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her statement.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague SHELLEY BERKLEY to support this concurrent resolution that honors National Children's Memorial Flag Day.

This concurrent resolution supports the commemoration of the 4th Friday of each April as National Children's Memorial Flag Day. In addition this resolution encourages national, State, and local agencies and private organizations to fly the Children's Memorial Flag to remember the children lost to violence and to raise public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children.

I support this resolution nationally because of its successful observance in my Congressional district. In 1996, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted the Children's Memorial Flag Project, and established a National Children's Memorial Day on the fourth Friday in the month of April to remember children who have died by violence. I want to commend Supervisor Gail Steele of Alameda County for her tireless work and dedication to get this resolution adopted. In addition, the California Assembly formally declared the

fourth Friday in April as a statewide annual observance day. The Child Welfare League of America has adopted Alameda County's Children's Memorial Flag and promotes it nationally.

This Congressional resolution is particularly timely in the wake of the two school shootings in California at Granite Hills High School in El Cajon, California and Santana High School in Santee, California. Unfortunately, acts of violence against children happen far too often. According to the Child Welfare League of America, three infants and children die from abuse and neglect in the U.S. each day, and ten children die a day as a result of gun violence. In fact, more children lose their lives to criminal violence in the U.S. than in any of the 26 industrialized nations of the world.

We have lost far too many children in violent, preventable deaths. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to work with renewed resolve to ensure that our children have a full opportunity to become healthy and productive adults. Even one child lost is one child too many.

I urge my fellow members to support the National Children's Memorial Flag Day concurrent resolution through unanimous consent.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 110

Whereas among the world's 26 richest nations, the United States accounted for 73 percent of child homicide victims;

Whereas at least 3 children a day die from physical abuse or chronic neglect in the United States;

Whereas April has been designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, an annual tradition started by President Jimmy Carter in 1979; and

Whereas the fourth Friday of each April is National Children's Memorial Flag Day, when many State and local governmental agencies and private organizations fly the Children's Memorial Flag to remember children lost to violence and to heighten public awareness of the need for communities to help vulnerable children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) supports National Children's Memorial Flag Day; and

(2) encourages national, State, and local agencies and private organizations to fly the Children's Memorial Flag—

(A) to remember children lost to violence; and

(B) to raise public awareness about the continuing problem of violence against children.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 110.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 94-304, as amended by section 1 of Public Law 99-7, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. HOYER of Maryland,
Mr. CARDIN of Maryland,
Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York,
Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ON H. CON. RES. 106, COMMENDING THE CREW OF THE U.S. NAVY EP-3 FOLLOWING THE ACCIDENT WITH A CHINESE AIRCRAFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the crew of the U.S. Navy EP-3 aircraft for their outstanding performance of duty following the collision with the Chinese F-8 fighter on April 1 and during their subsequent detention by Chinese authorities on the island of Hainan, China.

I want to make several points about this incident. First, our plane and its crew did nothing to precipitate this incident. They were flying straight and level, on autopilot, at a slow speed in international airspace. They were performing a routine and legitimate reconnaissance and surveillance mission similar to those performed by many other countries around the world.

It was the Chinese jet that flew in front of and dangerously close to our EP-3 aircraft. It was the Chinese pilot who displayed poor and unprofessional airmanship, causing his plane to collide with ours. To me, it is simply implausible to suggest a slow and level

flying multi-engine turboprop airplane could fly into a fighter jet aircraft. I do not think there is any question about who was really at fault in this accident. It was the Chinese pilot.

Once the collision occurred, our pilot and crew did everything they could do. They transmitted multiple "Mayday" signals to alert others to their in-flight emergency. They tried to alert the Chinese that they would have to divert for an emergency landing in China. And our plane landed on Hainan Island only because it was an emergency.

Our pilot and crew deserve high praise for safely landing the aircraft despite severe structural damage and in attempting to follow procedures to minimize the compromise of sensitive national security information. They also deserve credit for behaving so professionally during the 11 days they were detained against their will by Chinese authorities.

Beyond the crew and this incident, there are also broader issues here about which we should all be concerned. I refer, of course, to the Chinese demand that the United States should cease reconnaissance and surveillance flights off the coast of China. We should not. Our flights are lawful and are carried out in international airspace and are important to the national security of the United States. Moreover, the Navy EP-3 aircraft should be returned. It is clear under international law that under the circumstances under which this collision occurred, the Navy EP-3 airplane is the property of the United States. It should be returned to us.

Finally, if Chinese aircraft continue to intercept and employ aggressive tactics against our airplanes when we resume our reconnaissance surveillance flights, as we surely will, they run a grave risk. They run the risk of jeopardizing the important relationships that now exist between the United States and China. Despite ideological and governmental differences between the governments of our two countries, the last several years have shown that our countries can get along and have beneficial relationships, cultural, educational and economic.

The Chinese Government should realize that the beneficial relations that now exist between our countries could deteriorate if they continue to harass our airplanes when we are operating lawfully in international airspace.

I have introduced a resolution, H. Con. Res. 106, that expresses my commendation of the crew of the Navy EP-3 aircraft for the exemplary performance of their duties. The resolution also expresses the sense of Congress that reconnaissance and surveillance flights should continue, that our plane should be returned to us, and that continued interception of our flights may have broader political consequences. I invite Members of the House to cosponsor my resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are immensely proud of the 24 members of the

EP-3 crew and share the joy of their families and friends on the crew's safe return to the United States. Our men and women in uniform make personal sacrifices and take great risk every day to keep our Nation free. We should not take them for granted. In this case, we should all be grateful that the 24 service members of the Navy EP-3 have returned safely. I applaud them for their professionalism and performance of duty under most arduous circumstances.

HUMAN CLONING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of human cloning.

What would it be like if we had five Michael Jordans to suit up an entire team? Or what if there were two of you to accomplish more in a 24-hour day? The prospect of human cloning has been the stuff of science fiction novels for years. However, on February 27, 1997, Ian Wilmut from the Roslin Institute in Scotland cloned Dolly the sheep, a feat which has triggered international debate on the issue of human cloning. Since that time, scientists have cloned mice, cows and pigs. Richard Seed announced he would clone a human being.

President Clinton called for a 5-year moratorium on human cloning and advised the National Bioethics Advisory Commission to review human cloning. They recommended that cloning humans for reproductive purposes is unsafe and unethical. I would certainly agree.

If you speak to Dr. Wilmut, he will tell you that they had something on the order of 230 or more attempts to produce Dolly, with most of those attempts ending in miscarriage, but many, many of them resulting in the birth of sheep with very, very severe birth defects. To even consider doing such a procedure for the purpose of creating a human being is immoral and unethical in the worst possible way. However, cloning technology is available that could allow biotechnology companies and researchers to produce human embryos in the lab.

This issue of cloning human embryos, I must stress, is not an issue of fetal tissue research or an issue of stem cell research. It is an issue of cloning human embryos. This year, Panos Zavos of the University of Kentucky and his Italian colleague, Severino Antinori, have begun the work of creating a global consortium for the purpose of producing a human clone. Dr. Brigitte Boisselier, the Director of Clonaid, which has part of the Raelian extraterrestrial movement attached to it, has stated that they have already been offered substantial sums of money to begin the process of working on de-

veloping children through the process of human cloning.

I believe the time now is right and the time is ripe for the Congress of the United States to act, and that is why I have introduced legislation today that would make human reproductive cloning, as well as embryonic cloning, illegal in the United States of America.

Now, I want to stress that some people who favor embryonic cloning like to refer to this as therapeutic cloning. Indeed, this term has already been established in the press. I have had two reporters bring this issue up. Therapy implies that there is some sort of useful purpose for these embryonic clones. I would assert that if you look at the medical literature, there is no defined therapeutic purpose for cloning human embryos today in science. Therefore, this term is a misnomer.

The proper term is destructive cloning, or embryonic cloning, the cloning of a human embryo, the cloning of a human embryo for the purpose of just merely doing research on it and then further to proceed to just simply destroying it, or destructive cloning.

□ 1515

I think this process displays a profound disrespect for human life, and it needs to be made illegal in the United States of America.

Many countries in Europe have already taken action on this issue and have made human cloning illegal. This is what my bill attempts to do. The bill has been introduced in the Senate as well by the Senator from Kansas, SAM BROWNBACK.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to consider seriously getting much more well informed on this issue and signing on to my legislation. It is timely. It is right. We need to do it.

VICTIMS OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker: Sarkis Papazian, Elizabeth Khatchadourian, David Khatchadourian, Haroutiun Barseghian, Annik Mugurdichian, Mari Zadoian, Ghazar Ghazarian, Zkon Chouldjian, Takvor Kazandjian, Hagop Kazandjian, Avedis Aghjayan, Garabed Garabedian, Tavriz Garabedian, Shoushanig Garabedian. These are a few, a precious few, of the more than 1.5 million men, women, and children who lost their lives in the first genocide of the 20th century.

Ardeni Gureghian, Nazeni Kalustian, Antoine Kalfayan, Antranig Antolian, Rouben Gureghian, Anoushig Antolian, Mardiros Alemian, Haigaz Alemian, Hampartz Alemian, Caloust Alemian, Shmavon Tetezian, Sirpouhi Nahabedian Tetezian: 1.5 million people whose lives were as precious to them as our lives are to us, who loved